

REMARKS

In response to the Final Rejection dated August 23, 2005, the Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in light of the following remarks.

To correct an error in claim 10, the "reception acknowledgment signal" is now recited as "response data."

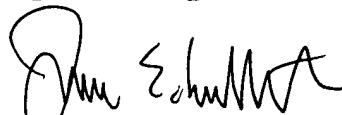
Claims 9-13 stand rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Kaneko et al. (US 6,505,347) in view of Shevlin (US 3,833,887) and Chen et al. (US 6,101,168). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 14-17, Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Applicant respectfully notes that Kaneko is commonly assigned to the Assignee of the present application, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., and only qualifies as a reference against the present application under the provisions of 35 USC §102(e). The present invention and the subject matter of Kaneko were commonly owned at the time the present invention was made. Accordingly, under 35 USC §103(c), Kaneko is disqualified for use in a 35 USC §103(a) rejection of the claims of the present application. Therefore, allowance of all pending claims is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JEL/DWW/att

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